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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,064	09/16/2003	Zaki A. Khan	E59121.006	2049
44093 7590 07/22/2010 ELEY LAW FIRM CO. 7870 OLENTANGY RIVER RD SUITE 311 COLUMBUS, OH 43235				
EXAMINER				
IDELL, JOSEPH T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3636				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/22/2010		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/663,064

**Applicant(s)**

KHAN ET AL.

**Examiner**

JOSEPH F. EDELL

**Art Unit**

3636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-15 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-15 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS-08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/13/10
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,771,124 to Borsani in view of JP Publication No. 406234337 to Kuroiwa et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,707,103 to Balk.

Borsani discloses a foldable seat that is basically the same as that recited in claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, and 20 except that the seat lacks a support leg and the anchor member lacks connection to a vehicle's structural portion and an elevated second pivot axis, as recited in the claims. See Figures 1 and 2 of Borsani for the teaching that the seat has a common and stationary anchor member 10 connected to a structural portion 8, first and second pivot axes 3,4 stationarily housed by the anchor member and spaced part from and parallel to one another, a seat cushion 1 with a side, forward, rearward, top, and bottom portions, the rearward portion being pivotably coupled to the anchor member, the seat cushion being pivotable on the first axis 3 about the anchor member, a seatback 2 with upper and lower portions, the lower portion being pivotably coupled to the anchor member in common with the seat cushion, and the seatback being pivotable on the second axis 4 about the anchor member wherein the top portion of the seat

cushion is capable of pivoting to a position facially adjacent the seatback by disengaging pivot 7 from all holes 5, the seatback is capable of pivoting adjacent the top portion of the seat cushion, the seat cushion being independently pivotable about the anchor member with the seatback stationary, the seatback being independently pivotable about the anchor member with the seat cushion stationary, the seat cushion is upwardly pivotable to a vertical position proximate and facially adjacent the seatback, the seatback is downwardly pivotable to a horizontal position proximate and facially adjacent the seat cushion, the seatback is releasably retained in a first vertical position by a latch 7', the seat cushion is releasably retained in a first generally horizontal position or a second generally vertical position by a latch 7, the latch may be actuated by a lever 12 to release the latch to allow the seat cushion to be pivoted about the rearward portion, and the seat cushion provides a visual indication when not in a retained condition by virtue of the lever 12 being slid inwardly.

Kuroiwa et al. shows a seat similar to that of Borsani wherein the seat has an anchor member 5,6 connected to a structural portion 8 of a vehicle, a seat cushion 2 including an enclosure 15 defined by a pair of opposing side portions, opposing forward and rearward portions extending between the side portions, a top portion coupled to the side, forward, and rearward portions, and a bottom portion 16, a seatback 3 with an upper portion and a lower portion pivotably coupled to the anchor member, and a forward support leg pivotably 4 coupled to the bottom portion of the seat proximate the forward portion, the forward support leg being movable between a stowed position generally parallel with the bottom portion and within the enclosure and an extended

position generally perpendicular to the seat cushion and engaging the structural portion wherein the rearward portion of the seat cushion being pivotably coupled to the anchor member and pivotable on a first axis about the anchor member, the anchor member forming a first pivot point, the forward support leg being pivotable about a second axis pivot point spaced apart from the first pivot point and on a second pivot axis parallel to the first axis, the forward support leg automatically retracts into the stowed position when the seat cushion is pivoted upward by pulling (on belt 21 to latch part 24 in Fig. 3 or arm 38 in Fig. 7), the forward support leg automatically extends into the extended position when the seat cushion is pivoted downwardly (by gas spring 19 in Fig. 3 or arm 38 in Fig. 7), the seat cushion is upwardly pivotable to a generally vertical position proximate and facially adjacent the seatback, and the seatback is downwardly pivotable to a generally horizontal position proximate and facially adjacent the seat cushion.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the seat of Borsani to include an enclosure defined by the side, forward, and backward portions, and a forward support leg pivotably coupled to the bottom portion of the seat cushion proximate the forward portion and movable between a stowed position parallel with the bottom portion of the seat cushion and within the enclosure and an extended position perpendicular to the seat cushion and engaging the structural portion wherein the support leg being pivotable on a third axis parallel to the first axis, the support leg automatically retracts into the stowed position when the seat cushion is pivoted upwardly, and the support leg automatically extends into the extended position when the seat cushion is pivoted downwardly, such as the

seat disclosed by Kuriowa et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Kuroiwa et al. that a support leg controllable by the latch provides a seat support that automatically retracts as the seat cushion rotates upward and that the latch assembly provide releasable retention of seat member.

Balk shows a seat similar to Borsani wherein the seat has an anchor member 16 connected to a vehicle's structural portion, a seatback 14, a seat bottom 12, and a pivot axis of the seatback being elevated with respect to the pivot axis of the seat bottom. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the seat of Borsani such that the anchor member is connected to a vehicle's structural portion and the second pivot axis being elevated with respect to the first pivot axis, such as the seat disclosed by Balk. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Balk that the elevated second pivot axis of a vehicle connected anchor member allows the seat to be used in a vehicle where the seatback pivots upon the seat bottom for storage of the seat when not in use.

Borsani, as modified, discloses a seat that is basically the same as that recited in claims 4, 8, and 9 except that the seat lacks a headrest, as recited in the claims. Balk shows a seat similar to that of Borsani wherein the seat has a seat cushion 12 (see Fig. 1), a seatback 14 releasably retained, a headrest coupled to the upper portion of the seatback, a second latch (see column 3, lines 52-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the seat of Borsani to include a headrest coupled to the upper portion of the

seatback wherein the seat member is a seat cushion, such as the seat disclosed by Balk. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Balk that the lever of the seat cushion's latch and the seatback's latch configuration are well known in the art as a way to releasably retain seatbacks, and in view of the knowledge generally available to one skilled in the art that headrests coupled to the upper portion of seatbacks provide a rearward support for a user's head.

Claims 10, 11, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borsani in view of Kuroiwa et al. and Balk, as applied to claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, and 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,942 to Sutton et al.

Borsani, as modified, discloses a seat that is basically the same as that recited in claims 10, 11, and 13-15 except that the headrest lacks pivot movement and a third latch, as recited in the claims. Sutton et al. show a seat similar to that of Borsani wherein the seat has a seat cushion 14 (see Fig. 1 ), a seatback 16 pivotable to a horizontal position, a headrest 24 pivotable coupled to the upper portion of the seatback, a latch 88 (see Fig. 3) that may be actuated by lever 90 to releasably retain the headrest in a first extended position or a second stowed position, the headrest is biased to a stowed position via gravity and the spring 92 biasing the latch member 84 against flange 64 upon actuation, and the headrest is linked to the seatback via linkage such that the headrest advances toward a stowed position as the seatback is downwardly pivoted and the headrest advances toward an extended position as the seatback is upwardly pivoted. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the seat of

Borsani such that the headrest is releaseably retained in at least one position by a third latch, the third latch may be actuated by a third lever to release the third latch allowing the headrest to be pivoted, the headrest is releaseably retained in either a first extended position aligned with the seatback or a second stowed position perpendicular to the seatback, the headrest is biased toward the stowed position, and the headrest is linked to the seatback such that the headrest pivotably advances toward a stowed position as the seatback is downwardly pivoted and the headrest pivotably advances toward an extended position as the seatback is upwardly pivoted wherein a passenger would be deterred from utilizing the seat when the headrest is not in the extended position, and the seatback and headrest provide a visual indication when not in a retained position by virtue of the seatback being horizontally disposed and the headrest being rotated to the stowed position, such as the seat disclosed in Sutton et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Sutton et al. that the horizontal seatback provides a stored position, that the headrest configuration provides an independently adjustable headrest that is controllably adjustable between an upright use position and a flat stowed position for facilitating the folding of the seatback, and that the headrest and seatback being linked provides releasing the seatback to move to the stored position upon movement of the headrest's latch.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Edell whose telephone number is (571) 272-6858. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Joseph F Edell/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3636

July 20, 2010